

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00767 110104Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----082624 110108Z /62

R 102220Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3568
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0767

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), PDEV, RH, UK, US
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH ZAPU LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 9 AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND CHARGE
D'AFFAIRES JOHN D. BLACKEN HAD AN EXTENSIVE HOUR AND A HALF
CONVERSATION WITH JOSHUA NKOMO IN GUYANA. YOUNG REPORTED ON THE
FORWARD-LOOKING TALKS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HELD WITH PRESIDENT
NYERERE AND EXPRESSED THAT THE US WAS COMMITTED TO
SUPPORTING THE BRITISH AND THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS IN
FINDING A LASTING SOLUTION THAT WOULD COME ABOUT THROUGH
FREE ELECTIONS BASED UPON A CONCEPT OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE THAT
AVERTED CIVIL WAR. NKOMO CLARIFIED HIS CONCERN ABOUT A US ROLE.
HE STATED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE UK LIVE UP TO ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT THE US COULD NOT COME AS AN EQUAL
PARTNER. ADDITIONALLY, NKOMO FOUND NO DIFFICULTY WITH BRITISH
THOUGHTS ABOUT A CONSTITUTION, A BILL OF RIGHTS, AN INDEPENDENT
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JUDICIARY AND FREE ELECTIONS. NKOMO EXPRESSED THAT HE HAD GIVEN
CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO AMNESTY FOR SOLDIERS IN SMITH'S ARMY,
STATING THAT THESE MEN ARE ONLY OBEYING ORDERS, AND THAT THERE
ARE MANY OF THESE SOLDIERS THAT WANTED TO REMAIN IN AN
INDEPENDENT AND FREE ZIMBABWE--BLACK AND WHITE. NKOMA IS VERY
MUCH INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND OFFICIALS IN
THE DEPARTMENT WHEN IN THE US. IN A LATER INTERVIEW WITH THE US

PRESS, NKOMO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT SEEK WAR FOR WAR'S SAKE, BUT SOUGHT THE SAME END AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JOHN D. BLACKEN, AND STONEY COOKS MET FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH MR. JOSHUA NKOMO OF ZAPU AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. AMBASSADOR YOUNG THANKED MR. NKOMO FOR REMAINING IN GUYANA SO THEY MIGHT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BEFORE NKOMO CONTINUED HIS TRAVELS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND TO THE US. YOUNG STATED THAT THE US WAS CONCERNED THAT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROCEED TOWARD MAJORITY RULE WITH FREE ELECTIONS ABSENT OF CIVIL WARFARE. THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE LEADERSHIP SELECTED UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE NEEDS TO BEGIN TO MOVE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND DIVISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. NKOMO STATED THAT THIS WAS ALSO HIS DESIRE, BUT THERE WERE A FEW MEASURES THAT WEREN'T CLEAR IN TERMS OF A US ROLE. THE US COULD AND SHOULD SUPPORT THE BRITISH BUT THE TRANSFER OF POWER WAS A UK RESPONSIBILITY THAT THEY MUST LIVE UP TO. NKOMO SAID HE HAD NEVER STATED THAT THE US SHOULD NOT HELP THE UK. THE UK NEEDED US SUPPORT AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT THE US SHOULD NOT CO-SPONSOR A CONFERENCE OR MEETING. NKOMO WAS CONCERNED THAT ZIMBABWE NOT BECOME A BIG POWER CONTROVERSY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE REAL QUESTION WAS HOW TO MOVE FROM WAR TO AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT AND

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THAT WAS WHAT THE UK NEEDED TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO. NKOMO SAID HE DID NOT VIEW THE QUESTION OF A CONSTITUTION BASED UPON ONE MAN, ONE VOTE, A BILL OF RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, OR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AS A PROBLEM. IT IS THE QUESTION OF AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT THAT WAS CRUCIAL FOR A FUTURE ZIMBABWE.

3. AMBASSADOR YOUNG REITERATED THAT THE US WAS CONCERNED ABOUT A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF POWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT AVOIDED CIVIL WAR, AND HE ASKED IF NKOMO HAD GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO HOW LONG AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE ALL PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-ENTER THE COUNTRY AND BEGIN TO CAMPAIGN. NKOMO RESPONDED THAT THE UK HAD DISCUSSED THREE TO SIX MONTHS, BUT THAT HE FELT EIGHT TO TEN MONTHS WAS MORE RATIONAL; HOWEVER, THEY FELT THAT SIX MONTHS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE.

4. NKOMO SAID THERE WAS THE QUESTION OF WHAT FORCES WOULD RUN THE COUNTRY DURING THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT. THERE EXISTED TWO ARMIES -- THE NATIONALISTS AND SMITH'S ARMY -- AND IF THERE WAS A UN FORCE OR A COMMONWEALTH FORCE, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THOSE ARMIES WHEN THE INTERIM FORCE PULLED OUT. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSIONS TO SEE WHAT COULD BE AGREED

TO. THE UN DIDN'T HAVE ANY FORCES. IT WAS A QUESTION OF WHAT COUNTRIES WOULD PROVIDE FORCES AND WHAT WAS THE POINT OF VIEW OF THOSE COUNTRIES REGARDING ZIMBABWE.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT NYERERE HAD HAD GOOD CONVERSATIONS, AND ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS, IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE WAS ABLE TO SATISFY PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THERE WAS A BASIS FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT. SECRETARY VANCE WOULD NO DOUBT BE ABLE TO GO OVER MUCH OF THIS IN NKOMO'S MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. NKOMO SAID HE VERY MUCH WANTED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE POSSIBLY ON THE 14TH WHEN VANCE IS BACK FROM LONDON.

6. NKOMO CONTRIBUTED WITH FURTHER THOUGHT ABOUT THE FORCES
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DURING INTERIM BY INSISTING THAT IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE TWO FORCES AND THAT THE TASK WAS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO FORCES. ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT WITH THE FORCES THAT EXISTED RATHER THAN ADDITIONAL FORCES. NKOMO SAID HE HAD GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF MEN FIGHTING IN SMITH'S ARMY. HE SAID THESE MEN ARE NOT TRAITORS. HE UNDERSTANDS IT IS THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THESE MEN FIND THEMSELVES. SOME KIND OF AMNESTY WAS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE.

7. MR BLACKEN SAID THAT A STATEMENT ON THIS POINT MIGHT HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON MEN FIGHTING FOR SMITH. NKOMO SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE POSITION THAT THESE MEN FIND THEMSELVES-- SOLDIERS OBEYING ORDERS.

8. NKOMO SAID THAT HE HAD READ A CREDITABLE US NEWSMAN'S ARTICLE THAT SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND THE UK WANTED TO BREAK UP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT CIVIL WAR, THEY HAD WORKED HARD ON DE-EMPHASIZING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ZANU AND ZAPU. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER AND THAT ALL WAS GOING VERY WELL. NKOMO SAID THAT SMITH WAS HIS WORRY -- SMITH'S ARMY -- BUT HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE PROBABLY WERE MANY IN THE SMITH ARMY THAT WANTED TO REMAIN IN AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE ZIMBABWE -- BLACK AND WHITE.

9. IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW WITH THE US PRESS, NKOMO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT SEEK WAR FOR WAR'S SAKE, BUT SOUGHT THE SAME END AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG.
ZURHELLEN

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1646471
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH ZAPU LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMA
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, RH, UK, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (BLACKEN, JOHN D), (NKOMA, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16c0305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009